

From the Office of the  
Joint Committee on Atomic Energy

No. 431  
For Immediate Release  
November 8, 1963

STATEMENT OF SENATOR JOHN O. PASTORE,  
CHAIRMAN OF THE JOINT CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE  
ON ATOMIC ENERGY, FOLLOWING INSPECTION OF  
WORLDWIDE ATOMIC ENERGY DETECTION SYSTEMS

The following statement was made today by Senator  
John O. Pastore, Chairman, Joint Congressional Committee  
on Atomic Energy:

"From the inception of the Atomic Energy  
Detection System, the Joint Committee on Atomic  
Energy has closely followed the research and  
development program for improving the system. With  
the signing of the Test Ban Treaty prohibiting  
atmospheric, underwater, and outer space tests,  
the necessity of being able to detect and identify  
nuclear detonations has become all the more important.

"As Chairman of the Joint Congressional Com-  
mittee on Atomic Energy, I headed a special Ad Hoc  
Subcommittee which just completed an inspection of  
our existing world-wide system. The Subcommittee,  
consisting of bipartisan representation, included  
the Joint Committee Vice Chairman, Congressman Chet  
Holifield (D., Cal.); Senator Wallace Bennett  
(R., Utah); Congressman Craig Hosmer (R., Cal.);  
Congressman William H. Bates (R., Mass.) and Con-  
gressman John B. Anderson (R., Ill.). We visited  
selected installations around the world where  
specially trained, competent U.S. military personnel  
operate detection equipment on a 24-hour basis every  
day of the year. Our inspection of detection stations  
included a detailed examination of acoustic, electro-  
magnetic, seismic and other electronic systems. The  
Ad Hoc Subcommittee was greatly impressed by the  
technical competence of the military personnel, both  
commissioned and enlisted, who manned these stations,  
and by their dedication to duty. The United States  
can be proud of these men who serve in many remote  
areas of the world, including outposts in Alaska and  
the Aleutian Island chain.

"In addition to visiting sites for detection of  
nuclear explosions, the Committee on its survey abroad  
took the opportunity whenever and wherever convenient

- 2 -

to visit civilian nuclear installations and to talk with the personnel in charge of programs for peaceful uses of atomic energy. We were happy to see the enthusiasm of those with whom we talked in the work they are doing.

"We have returned from our inspection with a feeling of greater assurance in our ability to detect a violation of the Test Ban Treaty should such a violation occur. However, improvements are being -- and must continue to be -- made. The Committee will prepare a detailed report of its trip, which will include certain recommendations for improving our detection capabilities. The report, of necessity, will have to be classified. Generally speaking, certain improvements can be accomplished through additional research and development and augmentation of the existing systems, and we have been assured that this is currently under consideration-- within the Department of Defense, the AEC, and other Executive Agencies.

"The Subcommittee greatly appreciated the excellent cooperation it received from the Executive Branch of the Government. Representatives of the White House, the AEC, the Defense Department, and the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency accompanied the Committee. They included: Mr. Carmine Bellino, Special Assistant to the President; Dr. Gerald Tape, Commissioner, AEC; Major General J. F. Rodenhauser, USAF; Major General Austin W. Betts, USA; Colonel Grover K. Coe, Office of Secretary of Defense; Mr. Dwight Ink, Assistant General Manager, AEC; Dr. George Rathjens, Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. The Committee and the accompanying group were fortunate to have one of the President's aircraft placed at their disposal.

"Consistent with its responsibility to the Congress and the country, the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy will continue to follow very closely the safeguards to the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty."